

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /017 W
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R 150906Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1537
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

UNCLAS TEHRAN 4558

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: BTRA IR
SUBJ: LOCAL WORK WEEK

REF: STATE 93486

1. GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN TEHRAN DO NOT HAVE UNIFORM
WORK HOURS. WORK SCHEDULES IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE SECTOR ARE IN TRANSITION FROM THE HALF-DAY
(E.G. 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM SIX DAYS/WEEK) OR THE LONG
MID-DAY BREAK (E.G. 9 AM - 12:00 AND 3:00 - 7:00 PM)
TO THE 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM OR 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM 5-DAY WEEK.

2. A SAMPLING OF WORK HOURS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICES
OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO BUSINESSMEN FOLLOWS:

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE
SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
THURSDAY 7:30 AM - 1:30 PM

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
THURSDAY 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND MINES
SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

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MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN PLANNING
SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

BANK MELLI (AND OTHER COMMERCIAL BANKS)

SUMMER SEASON (MAY-SEPTEMBER):

SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 7:00 AM - 2:30 PM
THURSDAY 7:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

WINTER (OCTOBER-APRIL)

SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
THURSDAY 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM

CENTRAL BANK OF IRAN

SATURDAY-THURSDAY 8:00 AM - 1:30 PM
4:00 PM - 6:30 PM

3. THE LOCAL WEEKEND IS THURSDAY-FRIDAY. ALTHOUGH SOME PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICES ARE OPEN THURSDAY MORNING, BUSINESS VISITORS SHOULD NOT ARRANGE THEIR SCHEDULES WITH THE EXPECTATION OF MAKING APPOINTMENTS ON THURSDAY MORNINGS. THE EMBASSY WEEKEND IS FRIDAY-SATURDAY WHICH AFFORDS VISITORS AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT THE ECONOMIC-COMMERCIAL SECTION ON WHAT OTHERWISE MIGHT BE A "DEAD" BUSINESS DAY (E.E., THURSDAY). MANY BUSINESSES SHORTEN OR ALTER WORK HOURS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

4. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EXECUTIVES WHO CUSTOMARILY DEAL WITH FOREIGN BUSINESS VISITORS ALL HAVE BUSY SCHEDULES, INCLUDING FREQUENT OVERSEAS TRAVEL ON SHORT NOTICE, AND THEREFORE NO PARTICULAR TIME IS PREDICTABLY MORE CONVENIENT THAN ANY OTHER FOR FINDING RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS/EXECUTIVES AVAILABLE.

5. DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS OF MARCH, ALL OFFICES ARE EFFECTIVELY, IF NOT OFFICIALLY, SHUT DOWN TO CELEBRATE NOW-RUZ (IRANIAN NEW YEAR - MARCH 21-APRIL 2) AND BUSINESSMEN SHOULD NOT SCHEDULE VISITS DURING THAT PERIOD.

6. ALTHOUGH THE WIDE VARIATION IN OFFICE HOURS MAY MAKE ADVANCE PLANNING DIFFICULT, ONCE IN TEHRAN BUSINESS UNCLASSIFIED

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VISITORS MAY FIND THAT THE WIDE RANGE ACTUALLY GIVES THEM A MORE FLEXIBLE WORKING SCHEDULE. BUSINESS VISITORS SHOULD REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT PROBLEMS WITH THE TRANSPORTATION AND TELEPHONE SYSTEMS MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE MORE THAN 2-3 MEANINGFUL APPOINTMENTS EACH DAY.

MIKLOS

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN04558
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 NA
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750171-0328
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaaehn.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUL 2003 by BalzMJ>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971008
Subject: n/a
TAGS: BTRA, IR
To: STATE INFO USDOC
BEIRUT
KUWAIT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006